

(M.R.T.S.) as a long term strategy to cope up with the rapidly increasing volume of traffic in Delhi.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. However, the Committee was set up only in February, 1997 and it is too early to evaluate its impact on overall traffic management.

Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve

2209. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the villagers living within the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve are agitating for opening its core zone to them;

(b) if so, the date from which the villagers access to the Biosphere Reserve has been stopped;

(c) whether poachers and hunters now operate without check in the reserve area;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to protect the Biosphere?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has reported that from time to time they have received letters and representations from the local people to open the core zone area for tourism and trekking.

(b) Any entry into the core zone of the Biosphere Reserve has been prohibited since 18.2.1983.

(c) No Sir. The State Government has reported that regular patrolling of area is done by the staff employed for the purpose who keep a strict watch and control on any poaching and hunting.

(d) and (e) Does not arise. However, eco-development activities in the buffer zone are undertaken with the cooperation and involvement of the local people.

Production of Fruit and Vegetable in Gujarat

2210. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of Gujarat in the production of fruit and vegetable as compared to other States in the country ;

(b) the type of assistance provided to Gujarat by the Indian council for Agricultural Research for research work in the field of fruit and vegetable;

(c) the details of the amount sanctioned by the Government for this purpose during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 and the actual amount spent thereon;

(d) the details of the assistance provided to Gujarat by the Government in the production processing and marketing of fruit and vegetable; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to promote and the development of fruit and vegetable in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Gujarat occupies 7th position in the production of fruits and 12th position in the production of vegetables in the country.

(b) and (c) The Indian Council of Agricultural research is providing assistance through All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on fruits and vegetables and research Centres of Indian Institute of Horticultural Research. Besides, Assistance is also being provided through *ad hoc* access fund schemes on various crops to State Agricultural University. The details of the amount sanctioned year-wise in this regard are given in the attached Statements-I and II.

(d) and (e) In order to promote cultivation of fruits and vegetables in the country (including Gujarat) Govt. of India is implementing following schemes (besides State plan schemes) under which assistance planting materials, input supply for improving productivity, demonstration, training etc.

(i) Integrated development of fruits.

(ii) Production and supply of vegetable seeds.

(iii) Development of root and tuber corps.

(iv) Development of mushroom.

(v) Use of plastic in agriculture

(vi) Establishment of nutritional garden in rural areas

(vii) Development of bee keeping for improving crop productivity.

Govt. of India through National Horticulture Board is extending soft loan assistance for creation of infrastructure for post harvest handling and marketing facilities for fruits and vegetables. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is also providing assistance to cooperatives of fruits and vegetables producers for the development of infrastructure for marketing and processing in the form of loan. Ministry of Food Processing Industries on the other hand, is providing assistance for establishing processing units. Besides, Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority is providing assistance through various schemes for export promotion including infrastructure development and air freight subsidy. Assistance in these cases are provided on case to case basis on demand.

Statement-I**Statement Showing the Details Financial Assistance Provided to the State Govt. of Gujarat by the ICAR for Research Work in the Field of Fruits & Vegetables**

ICAR is providing financial support through :

- (i) Institute/NRC/PD/Regional Stations of the Institute
- (ii) AICRP Centres
- (iii) Ad-hoc A.P. Cess fund scheme

The Details are as under :

(Rs in Lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the Institute/AICRP	Name of the Centre with Location	Funds released by ICAR as 75% Share			Total
			1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	
1.	AICRP on Tropical Fruits	Fruit Research Station GANDEVI, under G.A.U Banaskantha (Gujarat)	4.65	3.22	3.25	11.12
2.	AICRP on Sub-tropical Fruits	Agricultural Experiment Station, PARIA, GAU, Banaskantha (Gujarat)	3.90	5.33	4.41	13.64
3.	AICRP on Arid Zone Fruits	Date Palm Research Station, Gujarat Agricultural University NUNDRA - (Kachchh) (Gujarat)	3.37	3.67	4.28	11.32
4.	AICRP on Arid Zone Fruits	S.K. Nagar (DANTIWADA) GAU(Gujarat)	4.47	4.68	5.13	14.28
5.	AICRP on Vegetable Crops	JUNAGADH, GAU (Gujarat)	2.47	2.52	2.58	7.57
6.	AICRP on Potato	DEESA, GAU (Gujarat)	6.17	6.32	5.09	17.58
INSTITUTE						
1.	Indian Instt. of Horticultural Research, Bangalore Research Station	Central Horticulture Experimental Station, Godhra (Gujarat)	33.21	36.70	49.22	119.13 (100% ICAR Share)

Statement-II

Title of the Scheme	Location	Total Outlay	Duration	Funds Released
1	2	3	4	5
FRUITS				
Screening of Anola Phyllanthus emblica L.) germplasm for high sex-ratio (Female : Male) and development of hybrids . (F. No. - 9-35/91-Hort-I)	Gujarat Agri. University Anand.(Dept. of Hort.)	Rs. 3,92,960	5 years (1.4.94 to 31.3.99)	2,71,376/-

1	2	3	4	5
"Development of processed products based on Spota" (F.No.27-8/91-Hort.I)	Agri. College of Forestry and Horticulture, GAU, Navasari (Gujarat)	Rs. 8,05,800	4 years (1.4.94 to 31.3.97)	7,62,566/-
" To develop strategies for the pest management in Amla, Embica Officinalis". (F.No.16--18/94--Hort.I)	Dptt. of Entomology, B.A College of April. GAU, Anand (Gujarat)	Rs.2,28,200	3 years (1.2.93 to 31.1.96)	44,200/-
VEGETABLES				
"Development of high yielding true Potato Seed (TPS) hybrids for maximisation of yield in Gujarat" (F. No. 8-12/94-Hort. II)	Potato Research Station. GAU, Deesa (Gujarat)	Rs. 7,98,820	4 years (18.11.95 to 7.11.99)	3,36,355/-
"ICAR Research Network Project on promotion of Hybrid Research in Vegetable Crops". (F.No. 15- /95- Hort.II)	GAU Campus, Anand (Gujarat)	Rs. 12,32,600	3 years (1.10.95 to 31.3.98)	9,42,800/-

North Eastern Council

2211. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have a plan to reconstitute the North Eastern Council;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there was a Conference of the Prime Minister with the State Chief Ministers of the NEC States recently ; and
- (d) if so, the outcome of the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Prime Minister had held a meeting with Chief Ministers of all the 7 North Eastern States on 20th and 21st June, 1997. It was decided in the meeting to Planning Commission as Chairman and the Chief Ministers of the restructure the North Eastern Council with the Deputy Chairman, 7 North Eastern States as Members. The NEC would also have powers to sanction schemes once approved by the Council within its approved Budget. Subject to such conditions as may be laid down by the Central Government.

The scope of the schemes of the North Eastern Council will include major schemes of Inter-State benefit located in individual states in addition to schemes of inter-state character. The NEC would shed its role of reviewing security related matters.

*[Translation]***Foreign Assistance to Voluntary Organisations**

2212. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government have sought information from the State Governments regarding obtaining of foreign assistance by the voluntary organisations ;
- (b) if so, the names of the States which have sent this information ;
- (c) the names of the States which have not sent this information ; and
- (d) the time by which the States have been asked to furnish this information ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) Section 6 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 provides, inter alia, that no association having a definite cultural, economic, educational, religious or social programme shall accept foreign contribution unless such association registers itself with the Central Government in accordance with the rules made under the Act. The Act further provides that every such association may, if it is not registered with the Central Government, accept any foreign contribution only after obtaining the prior permission of the Central Government. The associations so registered or permitted by the Central Government to accept foreign contribution are required to submit annual accounts in the prescribed form giving details